



Blue River native fish project pond. PF&W Project.

AZFWCO Staff

Pinetop

- Vacant, Project Leader
- Vacant, Assistant Project Leader
- Jeremy Voeltz, Project Coordinator
- Dominic Barrett, Partners for Fish & Wildlife Biologist
- Jennifer Johnson, Fish Biologist
- Kayla Barrett, Fish and Wildlife Biologist
- Travis Taylor, Biological Technician
- Karla McGhan, Administrative Officer
- Vacant, Office Assistant



Flagstaff

- Kirk Young, Project Coordinator
- Randy Van Haverbeke, Senior Fish Biologist
- Dennis Stone, Fish Biologist
- Mike Pillow, Fish Biologist
- Jim Walters, Biological Technician
- Rick Deshler, Biological Technician

Apache Trout Crew

- Alex Poole, 1040 Seasonal

Parker

- Mitch Thorson, Fish Biologist
- Tammy Knecht, Fish Biologist
- Robert Randall, Fish Biologist
- John Naugle, Biological Technician
- Sean O'Kray, Biological Technician

Partnerships and Accountability

Dominic Barrett participated in the monthly Apache County Natural Resource Conservation District (NRCD) meeting in Springerville. Dominic presented information about possible training opportunities for NRCD members and private landowners. Dominic and the Apache County NRCD are planning on hosting a workshop next spring.

Dominic participated in a conference call with Arizona Ecological Services (AESO) Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program (PF&W) staff.

Kayla Barrett continued to prepare for the Desert Fish Habitat Partnership (DFHP) Annual Meeting 20 November

2013 in Flagstaff, AZ in conjunction with the Desert Fishes Council meeting. Kayla sent invitations to Fish Habitat Partnership (FHP) and Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC) coordinators, FWS staff, state, federal, tribal, and NGO partners to the DFHP annual meeting.

Rob Randall helped US Geological Survey (USGS) personnel complete submerged vegetation studies in Topock Marsh. During the two day period six vegetation transects at six sites were completed. Submerged vegetation is seemingly responding very well to the fairly new addition of the Fire Break Canal.

Dennis Stone met with Charles Yackulic and Maria Dzul from Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center (GCMRC) to discuss some preliminary findings on growth, survivorship, and movements of juvenile humpback chub in the Little Colorado River (LCR).

Kirk Young assisted Shaula Hedwall (AESO), US Forest Service (USFS), and Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) to stock Little Colorado spinedace into Willow Creek (tributary to East Clear Creek). Several hundred spinedace were hiked up-canyon using backpacks, tempered, and released to their new digs.

Public Use

Kayla updated the DFHP brochure and handouts for the annual meeting.

Jennifer Johnson delivered Apache trout to the White Mountain Montessori



School for their Trout in the Classroom Program.

Did you know AZFWCO had a Facebook page? We post information on our staff, upcoming projects, educational events, and volunteer opportunities across the state. We currently have 391 "likes" from 20 countries. Check us out at www.facebook.com/AZFWCO.

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Check out DFHP's Facebook page. We post information on projects, request for proposals, pictures, and much more. <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Desert-Fish-Habitat-Partnership/193053497376208>

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Habitat Conservation and Management

Kayla received regional super user status in FIS. She is now able to enter DFHP projects that are in R2.

In compliance with NHPA, Dominic completed notification letters describing PFW funded Blue River Native Fish Project, Milligan Valley Erosion Control

Project, and the Twin Springs Canyon Grazing Management Project. Notification letters were submitted to SHPO for approval.

Kayla started entering DFHP projects into FONS. Kayla also coordinated with R8 and R6 FIS

staff to enter DFHP projects into FONS for their appropriate region.

Kayla coordinated and facilitated the DFHP steering committee proposal ranking teleconference.

Kayla prepared a draft agenda for

Habitat Conservation and Management

the DFHP annual meeting and sent out to DFHP members to review.

Dominic met with a private landowner to discuss the PFW funded Blue River Native Fish Project. The project will restore an existing 0.9-acre pond for the benefit of roundtail chub and other native fishes. Pond restoration will be accomplished by excavating alluvial material to restore previous depths more favorable for native fishes. Alluvial material was deposited by high flow events and diverted river water carrying suspended sediment.



Kayla updated DFHP partners annual activity sheet and sent to executive committee for review.

Kayla coordinated with project leads of Moapa Band of Paiutes Tribe Muddy River proposal for DFHP and discussed a submission of a letter of support from the Muddy River Working Group.

Kayla coordinated with project leads of the Mohave Tui Chub DFHP proposal to discuss submission of letter of support from Cal State-Fullerton.

Kayla coordinated with project leads from the Amargosa Canyon DFHP project to discuss project accomplishments to date and if second phase of project would get implemented due to lack in funds.

Rob completed water quality data

entry for the month of October: Backwaters that were completed were River's Edge Golf Course (Needles), Office Cove (BWRNWR), Parker Dam Pond (Parker Dam), Emerald Canyon Golf Course Ponds 1, 9 and 11 (Parker) and Topock Marsh (HNWR).

Kayla discussed NFHP guidelines regarding nonnative fish removal as habitat projects with the NFHP coordinator.

Kayla distributed grazing information on the Moapa Band of Paiutes Tribe Muddy River DFHP proposal to DFHP members.

Rob gathered data from 2010 – 2011 Beal Lake razorback sucker releases and sent the data to the BOR at their request.

Aquatic Species Conservation and Management

Tammy Knecht completed monthly water quality collection for Alamo Lake.

Mike Pillow helped to pack, prepare for and participate in the previously postponed October 2013 Little Colorado River monitoring and translocation trip. Mike has been coordinating with Emily Omana-Smith (NPS) for the translocation portion of the trip. The logistics are complicated, but if we are able to capture enough fish, we can pull it off.

The Apache trout field season came to an end in October. The

crew removed a total of 3,179 nonnative trout from seven streams and surveyed 4,303 Apache trout. The crew also completed eight barrier evaluations and five Apache trout population surveys.



Leadership in Science and Technology

Jennifer submitted a draft report entitled, Barrier Evaluations on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation 2008-2013 Summary Report for internal review.

Randy worked on data analyses and writing for the 2013 annual report for GCMRC. The report summarizes our monitoring activities on humpback chub in the

Little Colorado River since fall 2000.

Rob is editing the draft 2013 Mohave Roundup report and submitted the 2012-2013 Off-Channel Habitat draft for internal review.

Kirk worked with USGS on a poster summarizing humpback chub

tagging experiments for presentation at the Desert Fishes Council meeting in November.

Dennis continued working on a manuscript concerning the humpback chub translocation experiment above Chute Falls in the LCR.

Workforce Management

Staff worked on IDP and yearly EPAP evaluations.

Kayla completed the September AZFWCO Accomplishment Report.

Randy VanHaverbeke continued to ensure that our volunteers are up to date with helicopter training for the upcoming Little Colorado River trips in September and October, as well as other staff members from GCMRC that may be flying.

Mike has been analyzing data linking old tags to new tags, to prepare a manuscript on age of humpback chub.

Staff completed all necessary paperwork regarding the government shutdown and furlough, and returned to work sane (mostly) and eager to work again.

Jennifer completed "FWS CGE Federal Traveler Training".

Jennifer completed the online course "Working Effectively with Tribal Governments".

Mike compiled and summarized all vehicle use data for the Flagstaff AZFWCO for FY13 into an annual vehicle report.

In the 2013 Arizona Society of Homebrewers Oktoberfest homebrew competition, Jeremy Voeltz won seven medals: Gold for his IPA; Silvers for his Pale Ale, English Bitter, Grape Mead, and Habanero IPA; and Bronzes for his Porter and Common Cider.

Jeremy Voeltz harvested a cow elk during the October general rifle hunt.



Upcoming Activities/Events:

Desert Fish Habitat Partnership Annual Meeting– Flagstaff, AZ. 20 November 2013.

Desert Fishes Council Meeting – Flagstaff, AZ. 20-23 November 2013.

